

12-70

HELLO AGAIN!



As of December 1, 41 traders have helped support this newsletter. Many thanks. A highlight of this month's issue will be a several-page amusing article by Mel Shlank. Also enclosed will be the list of Suspense programs. Up to now I have had very little response to my questionnaire about Suspense dates. The few that have sent dates have helped quite a bit. The new cover was again done by Sal Trapani. It is a picture of Jack Benny although one friend thought it was a picture of me.

Very good mailing boxes are made by Robert Meltesen, 122 Emmertsen Rd, Racine, Wisconsin 53406. They are 4 for \$1 in the 7-inch size. They are reusable several times and are quite sturdy.

I got response concerning the question of copyright and legalities from several people including the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress. From what I have been able to find:

1. Scripts were the aspect of the radio program that could be copyrighted. What scripts were copyrighted were owned by either the stars, sponsors, or other people including the broadcasting company themselves.

2. The copyright law is outdated, confusing, and inconsistent.

3. Records are more difficult to sell. The rights are covered by various groups in the entertainment business.

4. It is extremely difficult to police dubbing of radio and television programs. Only in rare instances does anyone complain. If you are rebroadcasting an old program over the radio from your private collection it would be wise to check with either the originating company or sponsor. One person wanted to broadcast a program with Ford as the sponsor. Ford gave permission but told the trader to eliminate the commercial because it described the 1950 Ford.

5. Tape recording companies do not give any guidelines for this yet this is how most of the reproduction is done. There was a very good article in May 1964 Audio magazine written by Eric Darmstaedter, President of Tanberg of America.

6. The cost of selling programs could be described as a service charge in preparing the program while the program itself is free. Hal Brodsky says: Copyright laws are at best a hodge-podge of unadulterated unfairness and monopolistic confusion.

Bruce Ruggles says: 3 years ago a CBC station got slapped with thousands of dollars in royalty fees for airing excerpts of old shows for a quiz program.

Has this helped anyone or just confused you more? More comments will be appreciated. When mailing boxes that have been used several times it would be helpful to put "to open" at the right place so the box isn't damaged. The recent increase in 4th-class rates does not affect sound recordings. It is still 12¢ for the first pound (1 tape). I enjoyed Parly Baer's performance in The Over the Hill Gang Rides Again. Couldn't recognize Chesters voice though.

Because of the amount of time in mailing now there may not be a personal message in each copy. Those who haven't sent info about yourselves (family, job, how you started trading, etc.) please do. Jack Benny program dated 5/29/55 (on some 8/29/55) is Jack's last program of the season only. Also the voice of Mary Livingston in that program was done by someone else.

QUIZ: More answers are coming in. The winner of October's quiz was Dave Swift with 4 correct answers. A reel of tape is on the way to him. October's answers are;

1. Dusty 2. 289523 3. 366 North Camden Drive 4. Crestview 40555 5. Calabasis 6. R 45 L 60 R 15 L 110 7. Steve Bradley 8. Charlie Bagby 9. 1945 10. Babe. Keep the answers coming in for November's quiz.

Each quiz lasts for 2 months.

DECEMBER QUIZ

1. What are the names of Dr. Watson's 2 dogs
2. What was the capital of the United States in the 25th century(Buck Rogers)
3. Give the month and day of Jack Benny's birthday.
4. In what year did J Benny decide to become 40 after so many years of being 39
5. Which of the following newspaper columnists had regular radio series as of 1940. Name 3. a. Jimmie Fidler b. Louis Sobol c. F P Adams d. Bugs Baer e. Westbrook Pegler f. Hedda Hopper
6. In the 40's what orchestras used the following theme songs. a. Drifting and Dreaming b. California Here I Come c. The Gentleman Awaits
7. What was Ma Perkins first name
8. What was the sponsor of Showboat in 1940. It was a cigarette not made anymore. The name is also the name of a song
9. Who was the 3rd Ameche brother besides Don and Jim
10. Who was the host of "Quixie Doodle" quiz.

DEATH: Eddie Peabody, 68, banjo soloist on many early radio programs including National Barn Dance, Showboat, Fleischman Hour

HERE AND THERE: Don Boates recommends joining the Sinatra Music Society if you are a Sinatra fan. Contact Bob Chiappari, 915 Diamond St, San Francisco, Cal 94114. The society publishes a magazine 6 times a year and has a membership of over 2200 people all over the world.

Bill Blalock has uncovered many transcriptions and over 50 Radio Guides as well as 25 Radio Stars, 12 Radio Land, 26 Stand Bys in 30Is. Bill would be willing to share these and other items with collectors if low-priced reproduction method is found. Is Xeroxing material the only way? (B B, 609 Blue St, Richland, Wash 99352)

John Cooper, Rt 1-Box 371, Clarksburg, W Va 26301. John puts out a nice fan magazine 4 times a year. It sells for \$3.00 a year and covers radio, movies, cartoons, magic, comic books. John also trades.

Bruce Dunn, 919 Hays Park, Kalamazoo, Mich 49001. Bruce has temporarily stopped trading due to broken machines but is writing an article about radio show collectors. If you wish to be mentioned let him know.

Many thanks to Charlie Ingersoll for the wonderful publicity he gave me in the Fall issue of Radio Dial. As usual it was great reading. (RHSA, Box 190, Cloquet, Minn 55720)

Many thanks to Vern Eldridge for 2 Life articles about Jack Benny. Fred Dickey, 1049 Day Rd, Schenectady, NY 12303. Fred has a large collection and works with John Furman quite a bit.

Hugh Carlson, 7003 Freistadt Rd, Mequon, Wisc. 53094. Hugh has a collection numbering in the thousands and has been collecting for a few years. Hugh has stopped most of his trading temporarily while he is dubbing 10 years worth of Fibber McGee which he borrowed from Johnson Wax in Racine, Wisc.

Ernie Hack is looking for movie and radio magazines of the 30's and 40's and would like to trade or buy them. (E H, 6 Perkins St, Bristol, Conn 06010)

Bill Hennessey recently received the Alumni Merit Award of St. Louis University for his leadership in the field of corrections and rehabilitation. Congratulations Bill.

Steve Hofer's new address; 505 College Place, Kingsville, Texas 78363

Gerry Kramer is interested in buying or trading radio premiums or giveaways. (G K, 509 East Quincy, #B, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762)

Eric Klarer, 3132 Buford Highway #A-2, Atlanta, Georgia 30329. Eric is president of a group called "The Motion Pictures and Radio Nostalgia Society, Inc." This group has members around the country and Canada. Eric has his own office, business phone, stationary, etc. Eric feels the group will soon drop the motion picture end and concentrated on radio and music. Eric called the other day from Atlanta to tell me about his group. I was as surprised as you probably will be that Eric is 13 and is in the 8th grade. However, he is the most articulate and knowledgeable 13 year old I have ever talked to. Eric also puts out a newsletter. He also told me that most of his trading friends use cassette recorders rather reel ones. (reel, not real)

Roger Pawlak, 294 Fairfield Ave, Kenmore, NY 14223. Ken is a newcomer to the trading world and would like to trade.

Roger Paulson. Box 4, Needham, Mass 02192. Roger has about 2000 programs with a very good selection

Bruce Ruggles was once offered a half hour program for \$35 from one who will remain nameless. This is the alltime record so far. He also would like to know your feeling about getting form letters from traders. I did this myself when I first started because I was trying to reach so many people at once. I did add a few personal words on each one, however. Bruce also suggests that anyone dubbing from a disc where repetitions are heard, to edit them out of the tape rather send it that way. Bruce (and I) are still looking for Goldbergs, Abies Irish Rose, Nero Wolfe, Arthur Godfreys Talent Scouts, Battle of the Sexes, Bob Hawk, Claudia, Ed Sullivan in the 30's and more. Please let us know if you find them (B R, Box 3000, North Bay, Ontario, Canada.)

Dave Swift has some Scotch tapes recorded in 1950 still in good shape. Anyone earlier than that.

Many thanks to El Shumway for 1940 copy of Movie-Radio Guide. I now have radio logs for complete weeks in 1929, 1934, 1936, 1938, 1937, 1940. More years would be appreciated. (E S, Box 322, Kenosha, Wisc 53140)

Chuck Schaden, our newest radio sensation, is 36, married, had 2 children, 6 and 2. Chuck's old time radio program is still going strong.

Harry Sova is teaching a course in radio production and direction at Indiana University. Harry will soon have off the mimeo machine a detailed report of radio in 1927, its first great year. To do it he went through over 32,000 pages of the New York Times. His catalog has more information about a program than any I've seen. (H S, 1268 Eigenmann Center, Ind Univ, Bloomington, Ind 47401)

Ronnie Tilton just graduated from Baruch College and is now working for the Internal Revenue. His pursuits are girls, handball, science fiction, and poker. He has collected for 6 years and is mainly interested in first or second generation copies. (R T, 602, Hegeman Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11207)

Bill Wesley is interested in trading tapes of 78's and transcriptions of dance bands of the 30's and 40's. (B W, 6147 Central Ave SE Washington, DC 20027)

OLD TIME RADIO NOTES

At one time networks and stations tried to bring more women announcers in the business (1937). The effort didn't catch on because of strong objection from women themselves. Networks said men didn't seem to care. During the Louis-Braddock championship fight broadcast, for the first time the sponsor had the announcer suggest to the listener to turn his set down so not to disturb his neighbors. Will Rogers said, "Every man is ignorant....on some subjects. George Gobel as a youngster used to hang around WLS Barndance practice sessions. This is where he got his start. Also from this same program

4

Uncle Ezra reached fame. Mrs. Temple was lenient with Shirley in her choice of radio programs but encouraged her toward serious music and culture. Results: Shirley stuck to the Lone Ranger and other comparable dramas/

Courtesy: Bill Blalock

THIS IS THE LIFE-PART 3

One night in Vancouver, B C, following a show, Jack Benny went with Zeppo Marx to visit friends of Zeppo, a married couple with 2 children. This happened in 1921 and was only one of many visits to different people while Jack was barnstorming around the country. In 1925, while at the Orpheum Theater in Los Angeles, Jack had a blind date with a sister of a good friend of his. The girl's name was Sadye Marks. Before he left California he grew to like her. While in New York in 1927 Jack bumped into Bebe Manns, Sadye's married sister. Bebe told Jack that Sadye was going to get married to a Canadian. Jack was on his way to Chicago, as was Bebe Mann, and persuaded her to have Sadye meet them there. Sadye met them in Chicago and Jack promptly took her out for a drive and asked her to marry him. Sadye said yes. They were married on Jan 12, 1927. Jack was 33 and Sadye was 18.

A few weeks later Sadye (Mary Livingston) asked Jack if he remembered where he met her. Jack thought it was in Los Angeles. Sadye asked him if he remembered his visit in Vancouver to a family with 2 girls, one of which was 12. She was Sadye Marks.

Next week: Jack's rise in radio

Radio Guide: July 3, 1937

Written by Jack Jamison

Courtesy of Raleigh Barker

LAST MINUTE MAIL AND NOTES: Meade Frierson III has just written a supplement to his Static, Flutter, and Pop. It contains many corrections and additions. Many traders and performers helped contribute to Meade's book. This is must reading for any collector of radio programs. Meade's book gives more detail than anyone about the programs related to science fiction. (MF, 3705 Woodvale Rd, Birmingham, Ala 35223). Bill Blalock is interested in starting a Lum and Abner Club (address on previous page). He also is in constant touch with Hal Peary.

MORE NEWSLETTERS: Robert Joseph, 1250 La Baron Circle, Webster, New York 14580. Bob will have the first edition of his newsletter written in January. Let him know if you are interested in receiving it. Bob also trades. Often loud clicks are heard after a program is over when the recording button is released. I have found if you release the button very gently no sound will be heard at all. Similar technique can be used with machines that do not have the push button record system. Often you might receive catalogs in which there are few programs that interest you. Why not return them so the trader can send it to someone else.

When writing to people please mention this magazine. I have decided to send my Suspense listings to those who responded to my questionaire. Many of you may not be interested. If I don't send you one and you want one please let me know.

If you are new to this newsletter or have forgotten, subscription rates (contributions) are \$1.00 periodically. If enough money is received it may be a long period. Next month; Recollections at 1 year; by Jay Hickerson. Now stay tuned for Mel Shlank and his zany, witty article. Were a little late folks.

Hang by your thumbs.

Write if you get work.

Jay H Hickerson

This portion of our program is brought to you by OLD HENRY, public enemy Number 1. Hold the phone, hold the phone, it's time for Oops, sorry, wrong program !

Seriously though, this portion of HELLO AGAIN is being written by Mel Shlank. Mel Shlank.....who's he ?? Good question, well I'll tell you.

As most of you that receive this publication (?) on a regular basis are aware, Jay (Hickerson) is part of a group of radio buff nuts (such as myself, of which I am probably the nuttiest when one gets to really know me). Jack Miller, Sal Trapani and Bill Smerekanicz make up the rest of our group.

Up until now, Jay has been sending this publication (?) out to those that he trades with, and occasionally one or the other of the rest of the group has given Jay a bit of two or three or fourof information that Jay has been happy to include.

This time around, yours truly has decided to become piggish and write a page or two or three orNOW CUT THAT OUT ! Well as I was saying, here I am and I have a few items that may or may not be of help to a few of you.

First off to those of you that are relatively new to this trading business, take the advice of one that has learned the hard way. Make sure that you keep accurate records. That is about the most important bit of advice that I can give you. If you do not have some sort of filing arrangement, a filing cabinet would be best, make sure that you get one, and pronto, not Tonto, but pronto.

If you do not have a way of keeping accurate records, after a while you are going to have more trouble than Carter has Little Liver Pills. Take it from me, I know from experience (who's he ?). A few of you that will be getting this publication (?) will say-----"boy, he sure is right, he owes me some programs from six months ago-----where the &%*&@# \$%#@& are they ?" To any of you that can say this, I apologize and ask that you write direct to me immediately, yesterday if possible, and let me know what I owe you, I'll get it out as fast as I can, no kidding ! For those of you who wonder what the h---- I am talking about, well I'll tell you briefly, when I started this trading business I had no filing system at all. I soon learned that I would need one and started one but it was woefully inadequate. As I was soon to learn, if one is serious in this business, one is likely to have contact with as many as 75 to 100 people within a year. Better make sure that you have adequate filing facilities ! If you don't, what has happened to me may happen to you, namely I am just finally setting up a real good filing system (as time permits) and am VERY embarrassed to find out that I never completed a few trades from last spring. I never intended to gyp anyone and within the next month or so I feel that I will be all caught up, in the mean-time, if I owe you some programs, you can help me get them to you sooner if you will let me know what they are.

6

Perhaps instead of speaking in singular terms, I should speak in the plural when it comes to filing systems and/or record keeping, as several different things have to be considered.

First, one must keep an accurate record of those that he corresponds and/or trades with. Make sure that you have their name spelled correctly and that you have their correct full address, including the zip code. This is simple enough and can be kept any one of several ways. The way that I am now doing it is to keep a list of names in a school type of notebook, using 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 paper.

Next, make sure that you have some sort of a system for keeping correspondence with each person. To make certain that you remember what you told some-one, it is important that you make and keep a carbon copy of every letter that you write. Sometimes you are certain that you will remember what you said in a letter, but by the time that a reply comes you may have forgotten. A carbon copy eliminates that problem.

When making up a filing system if you are just started in this trading business, make certain that you either have plenty of room to use or that you can easily expand. It is amazing at how fast things pile up. Although I have only been collecting for a little over a year now and have been close to a stand-still in trading for about four or five months now due to business obligations, I am in contact with well over fifty people. If one is serious in this thing, he finds that it will mushroom far beyond ones greatest expectations.

As far as keeping the lists of shows that all your trading friends have is concerned, there are two ways to do it. At first I kept a separate file for listings, with only listings in this file. I thought that it would be better this way but I soon had a change of heart. I am now converting over to a system whereby the persons listing is in the same packet as his correspondence is in. In that way you have all of his material in one place.

Listings of what programs you have sent out and to whom they have been sent should also be kept. This can be important for several reasons, the most obvious being that if a package is lost in the mails (which of course is rare), you know what to replace. There are of course several other reasons.

Another thing on this record keeping business, make sure that you keep a master file of all programs that you have, and tied in with that, make certain that you assign a number to each reel of tape as soon as you receive it, if not you will eventually have a case of chaos and Agent 86 will not be around to help you ! Right now I have about two hundred tapes lying around, some with programs that I have dubbed off of the air myself from both radio and tv, but mostly trade tapes. Not one of them has a number !!! You can imagine what I go through when I look for programs when I want to dub for a trade ! I could see this coing about fifty tapes ago but let it go, now am I sorry ? Well I'll tell you, yes I am !

If you are not numbering your tapes and/or have a good filing system STOP RIGHT NOW AND GET STARTED ON ONE ! The people that you want to trade with and the programs that you want to obtain will still be there when you are ready to resume trading and believe me, that pause will do you good !

The above mentioned bits of advice are actually just good common sense, but it is amazing at how in a zealous manner to obtain as many programs as possible, and as fast as possible, one can overlook doing these simple but important things.

As I stated earlier (or maybe I didn't), I will from time to time in the future, be writing a page or two for Jays' publication (?). I have a number of thoughts for collectors that I wish to put on paper, some worth-while, some not, but at least it will give me a chance to sound-off.....cadence count, hup-two-three-four-----NOW CUT THAT OUT !

Seriously though, I have a few tid-bits of earth shattering information that I wish to share with others. One of these concerns the way that tapes are wrapped when they are sent out. I have seen just about every imaginable way of sending a tape out. I shall not comment on those that I have received lest I hurt somebodys' feelings. Just let me say that I have found two ways of packing tapes. There are available cardboard boxes which are the exact size for sending out one two, or what-have you tapes at one time. I have also seen cases where some people have expertly taken an ordinary cardboard box and reshaped it soxx as to be able to send out tapes. This has also worked very well.

Now for the commercial,..... you were expecting a public service announcement ? The way that I prefer to receive (and send) tapes in is in mailing envelopes that are made for books. There is probably more than one company making them, but I only know of one at this writing. The name of that company is the JIFFY MANUFACTURING COMPANY. The bags are known as "JIFFY BAGS". They can be obtained from : Edward G. Klapproth, Sr. at 40 Burnside Avenue in Cranford, New Jersey 07016. Mr. Klapproth has a \$ 3.00 minimum, but he does pay shipping charges.

There are many different sizes available, and I will give you the information for the most popular sizes, I am sure that Mr. Klapproth will send you additional information if you write to him. The size bag for one 7 inch tape is number 2 and the cost is 12¢ each. The number 3 will fit (real tight fit) two tapes at a cost of 16¢ each bag. If you want a bag large enough to fit three tapes, the number is 4 and the cost is 18¢. Number 5 at 22¢ will fit four tapes.

As you can see from the above, they are relatively inexpensive, especially when one considers that on the average, a bag should be good for at least three "round trips". An expenditure of only about three dollars should begood for a year or more, especially if good care is taken by each user. The open end of the bag can be stapled closed so that it can easily be used over again and again.

8

I mentioned earlier that I tape things off of the air. I will have more to say about this in the future (that is if Jay lets me--he is a real ogre you know--who else tells people to hang by their thumbs?). For now though I I wish to tell those of you that like classical (concert) music, that I have just started to tape the live concerts of the Boston Symphony Orchestra in stereo. I do so when-ever I can, which means almost every Saturday night. For those of you that may be interested, I am making the tapes up for my own use (in fact I am listening to one right now) but will be more than happy (how can one be more than happy?) to dub them for anyone that wants them, in exchange for old radio shows or similar material. If anyone is interested, write to me, for those that are interested, the quality of my reception is virtually flawless by the way. The station that I record from is 100 miles away, but I use some extremely sophisticated equipment for my reception and recording (such as a stacked 12 element FM yagi).

I am also taping among other things, THE GOON SHOW and GANGBUSTERS. I collect many things on tape and will have more to say about this in the future (I hope-----Jay are you there?).

This piece of artistic value-----what you are reading now you knuckle-head-----should be appearing in the December issue of HELLO AGAIN. The January issue will not contain any of my material (thank God you say-----what? what? what? what? what? what? what? what?). Jay will once again do the entire what-ever-you-call-it by himself and will feature (I think) an article about himself. It will arrive at your mailbox accompanied by a big brass band. What you do with the band is your businesss(oops, one too many!) but I do suggest that you read what Jay sends.

The issue after that will again (hopefully----boy this guy does a lot of hoping doesn't he?) have some of my material (?) in it. In fact, I will probably write an article to be titled: "How I started to trade old radio shows-----or, How not to start trading old radio shows".

Well, that just (or should I say jest?) about daz it for now. Any mistakes that you have seen on this or the previous three pages have not been mistakes, they have just been.

Oh yes, if any of you want to write to me, although I can't imagine why, you can reach me (if your arms are that long) as follows: Mel Shlank; 553 Howellton Road; Orange, Connecticuticuticuticuticut 06477.

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year
to all our many friends